

What is claimed is:

1. A bushing assembly for containing a molten mineral material from which fibers can be attenuated, said bushing assembly comprising:

- a bushing main body comprising at least first and second side walls and a tip plate
- 5 extending between said side walls, said tip plate containing a plurality of orifices through which molten mineral material flows so as to be attenuated into fibers;
- a first support rail coupled to said main body first side wall;
- at least one first bracket having an intermediate member coupled to said main body first side wall.

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2. A bushing assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said first support rail comprises first and second substantially planar surfaces integral with one another and defining an L-shaped body.

15 3. A bushing assembly as set forth in claim 2, wherein said support rail first planar surface is coupled to said main body first side wall.

4. A bushing assembly as set forth in claim 3, wherein said bracket comprises first and second leg members, said legs members being located on opposing sides of said intermediate
20 member and extending substantially orthogonal to said intermediate member.

5. A bushing assembly as set forth in claim 4, wherein said support rail includes first and second slots, said first and second leg members being received in said first and second slots and being weldably coupled to said support rail and said main body first side wall.

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6. A bushing assembly as set forth in claim 5, wherein said bracket intermediate member is welded to said main body first side wall along substantially the entire length of said intermediate member.

7. A bushing assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein a plurality of first brackets are provided, each including an intermediate member weldably coupled to said main body first side wall.

5 8. A bushing assembly as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a second support rail coupled to said main body second side wall, said main body second side wall being opposite said main body first side wall.

9. A bushing assembly as set forth in claim 8, further comprising a plurality of second 10 brackets, each including an intermediate member weldably coupled to said main body second side wall.

10. A bushing assembly/support structure arrangement comprising:

a bushing assembly including a bushing main body comprising at least first and 15 second side walls and a tip plate extending between said side walls, said tip plate containing a plurality of orifices through which molten mineral material flows prior to being attenuated into fibers; a first support rail coupled to said main body first side wall; and at least one first bracket having an intermediate member coupled to said main body first side wall; and

20 a support structure comprising a bushing frame; and at least one first support strap having a first end fixedly coupled to said bushing frame and second end extending toward a first location on said support rail adjacent said first bracket for supporting said bushing assembly.

11. A bushing assembly/support structure arrangement as set forth in claim 10, further 25 comprising an insulating member located between said support rail first location and said support strap second end, said support strap second end applying a weight-bearing support force against said support rail first location via said insulating member.

12. A bushing assembly/support structure arrangement as set forth in claim 10, wherein 30 said first support rail comprises first and second substantially planar surfaces integral with one another and defining an L-shaped body.

13. A bushing assembly/support structure arrangement as set forth in claim 12, wherein
said support rail first planar surface is coupled to said main body first side wall.

14. A bushing assembly/support structure arrangement as set forth in claim 13, wherein
5 said bracket comprises first and second leg members, said legs members being located on
opposing sides of said intermediate member and extending substantially orthogonal to said
intermediate member.

15. A bushing assembly/support structure arrangement as set forth in claim 14, wherein
10 said first location on said support rail is located between said first and second legs of said
first bracket.

16. A bushing assembly/support structure arrangement as set forth in claim 14, wherein
said support rail includes first and second slots, said first and second leg members being
15 received in said first and second slots and being weldably coupled to said support rail and
said main body first side wall.

17. A bushing assembly/support structure arrangement as set forth in claim 16, wherein
said bracket intermediate member is welded to said main body first side wall along
20 substantially the entire length of said intermediate member.

18. A bushing assembly/support structure arrangement as set forth in claim 10, wherein
said bushing assembly comprises a plurality of first brackets, each including an intermediate
member weldably coupled to said main body first side wall, and said support structure
25 comprises a plurality of first support straps, each including a first end fixedly coupled to said
bushing frame and a second end extending toward a corresponding location on said support
rail for supporting said bushing assembly.

19. A bushing assembly/support structure arrangement as set forth in claim 10, wherein
30 said bushing assembly further comprises a second support rail coupled to said main body
second side wall, said main body second side wall being opposite said main body first side
wall.

20. A bushing assembly/support structure arrangement as set forth in claim 19, wherein said bushing assembly further comprises a plurality of second brackets, each including an intermediate member weldably coupled to said main body second side wall.